

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

both sides of the national Highways in Bihar during last three years; and

(c) if not, agency responsible for construction and maintenance of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) No separate allocation is made for maintenance of footpath. Allocations are made to State Government for maintenance of all the national Highways in the State. The amount spent on maintenance of National Highways in Bihar during last three years are as under:—

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
1997-1998	34.3166
1998-1999	33.5119
1999-2000	90.7074

(c) Does not arise.

Reconstruction of Bridge on Amritsar-Kullu, NH

2993. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Amritsar-Pathankot - Kullu National Highways is the only National Highway for supply to the Army in Leh-Ladakh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the bridge constructed on Chakki, Khadda on this route is very old and is in a very bad condition which may fall at any time hindering the supply to the Army;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted and estimate has been finalised for its reconstruction;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any plan to reconstruct* this bridge;

(f) if so, the plan of action; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) There are two routes leading to Leg-Ladakh. One route is from Amritsar-Pathankot-Kullu National Highway and another is from Amritsar-Pathankot-Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

(b) The existing bridge on Chakki Khadd is a single lane narrow bridge which needs reconstruction as per National Highways standard. However, the existing bridge is being maintained in a traffic worthy condition.

(c) to (g) Survey has been done and project report has been prepared. The land for approaches is yet to be acquired by the States of Punjab/Himachal Pradesh for which land acquisition estimate has already been sanctioned. The reconstruction of the bridge will be taken up after the land for approaches is acquired.

Progress in Construction of National Highways

† 2994. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep decline in the allocation for National Highways Projects during consecutive plans;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the States where the progress in construction of National Highways has been affected; and

(d) whether any reasons have been ascertained for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir. There is a constant increase in the allocation for National Highways Projects during last three Annual Plans.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.